[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

inadequacy of infrastructure like communication, since no railway line exists at the moment.

(vii) Need to make early payment of dues to the farmers of Gujarat under Crop Insurance Scheme

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Sir, for approximately one year and a half, farmers of Gujarat have not been paid dues under the Crop Insurance Scheme. On a number of occasions myself and other hon. Members from Gujarat , Organisations of farmers and cooperative Societies have written for immediate payment of dues. Even personally the position has been apprised off but till date the payment of dues has not been made to the farmers under the afore said insurance scheme. As a result of which the farmers are not being given new loans. Though the farmers are entitled for the claims but even then the payment of dues has not been made.

As a result of which the farmers are not able to buy seeds and insecticides etc. Thereby casuing antensive loss in agricultural production and also adversely affecting not just the farmers but also the Government and the country. Burden of interest on loan to be repaid by the farmers on bank loans has increased two four folds, but no interest is being paid on payment of outstanding dues to the farmers, thereby defeating the very objectives of Crop Insurance Scheme.

The entire Saurashtra-Kutch belt in Gujarat is in the grip of draught and both the farmers and animals are facing starvation. In the prevailing conditions the payment of dues under the Crop Insurance Scheme is the only ray of hope. Farmers are now dependent just on this payment.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Central Government to immediately disburse the outstanding payment of dues for 1991-92 under the Crop Insurance Scheme to the farmers.

(viii) Need to take steps for protecting the interests of fishermen of Rajapur, Maharashtra

[*English*]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

Rajapur Constituency is the most backward costituency of the country, in spite of it being declared as having achieved 100 percent literacy. Presently the catch on the coast has reduced as ships from the neighbouring States are conducting massive poaching operations with the modern vessels at their disposal. Bare necessities like salt for drying of the fish is not provided to the fishermen. 90 per cent of the catch is thus wasted due to lack of processing facilities.

The entire shipping industry has collapsed and resultant effect on the fishing industry is clearly visible. Today the future of one lakh fishing community is at stake. I would therefore request that the following steps be taken urgently:-

(a) Establish a deep sea fishing harbour in Rajapur with required research facility.

(b) Start work on the fishing harbours at Sarjekote and Anandwadi.

(c) Provide assistance to the Maharashtra Government for desiltation of all the harbours of the region.

(d) Evolve a master plan for promotion of the fishing industry to include. Aquaculture, Deep sea fishing, Shallow water fishing, marketing, promotion of cooperatives, provision of infrastructure and inputs for fishing.

(e) Promote Joint Venture operation with foreign flag ships for deep sea fishing.